



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

: Confirmation No. 8989

Hisashi ICHIMURA et al.

: Docket No. 2001-0969

Serial No. 09/902,256

: Group Art Unit 1751

Filed July 11, 2001

: Examiner P. Kumar

ANIMAL FIBER SUPERIOR IN SHRINK  
PROOFING AND METHOD FOR  
PREPARATION THEREOF

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE  
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of May 23, 2002 please amend the present application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 to 16, cancel without prejudice in the subject matter thereof and add the following claims:

17. (New) An animal fiber;

having scales in original forms on the surface portion of the fiber and being oxidized to a degree of oxidation of a -S-S- bond in an epidermal cell of the animal fiber of not less than 0.1 of relative absorbance in an absorption band of -SO<sub>3</sub>H group and/or not less than 0.08 of relative absorbance in an absorption band of -S-SO<sub>3</sub>Na group (Bunte salts) with an absorbance of an absorption band corresponding to amide I set to 1 in a reflection FT-IR measuring method,

showing shrink proofing of an area shrinkage rate of not more than 8% in a three-hours aqueous washing when measured as a felting shrinkage rate in conformity with Woolmark Test

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